

Abstract 720

TITLE: HIV/AIDS in India – changing scenario necessitates change in strategy

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ISSUE: The Indian HIV/AIDS situation is at crossroads. Limitations and constraints of the 1st phase of the National AIDS Control Program need to be analysed in -depth for further strategy development for the next phase of the project.

SETTING: National HIV/AIDS Control Program.

PROJECT: The 1st National AIDS Control program was being implemented by the Central government and the 32 states. The achievements and the constraints between the period 1992- 98 were reviewed while preparing the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for the 2nd phase of the HIV/AIDS Control in India.

RESULTS: The results may be summarised into two broad categories of achievements and constraints. The constraints included (i) lack of political will due to lack of advocacy among the political leaders and the bureaucracy, (ii) uneven implementation in different states with 2/3rd of the states showing poor results due to lack of ownership (iii) inadequate data due to limited surveillance (iv) lack of awareness generation in the rural areas (v) no clear policy on care and support of affected individuals and the management of full blown cases and (vi) no proper training for all medical/paramedical faculties and the non medical field workers. The majority of the program activities were concentrated in the urban areas.

LESSONS LEARNED: Due to the various constraints, the HIV/AIDS situation in India is quite serious though not grim. The epidemic is no longer an urban problem. However, a window of opportunity exists. Without ignoring the warning signs prompt control measures need to be initiated and strategies developed keeping in view the present epidemiological scenario.

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